

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
BARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND**

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**Minutes of School Committee Meeting 05/01/14**

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, May 1, 2014, at the Administration Building. Mrs. Brody called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Dr. Shea, Mr. Connor, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon and Mr. Tarro. Absent were Mr. Fuller and Mr. Guida.

Mrs. Kate Brody introduced members of the Committee present at the meeting: Student Representative Mr. Timothy Connor, Dr. Robert Shea and Dr. Paula Dominguez. Mrs. Brody also introduced the Administration and Central Office Staff: Superintendent Mr. Michael Messore, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Mrs. Paula Dillon, Director of Administration and Finance Mr. Ronald Tarro, and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Mrs. Elizabeth Levesque. School Committee members Mr. Scott Fuller and Mr. Patrick Guida were absent.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Jeffrey Levesque, Barrington High School Science Teacher, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Achievement Recognition**

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the district:

Barrington High School is a Gold Medal winner in the 2014 U.S. News and World Report annual Best High School rankings. Barrington High School is ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in Rhode Island, 440<sup>th</sup> nationally, and 178<sup>th</sup> in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

Barrington High School Junior Cameron Hummel is the recipient of the Rhode Island General Treasurer Gina M. Raimondo's Young Leader Award.

The Barrington High School LifeSmarts team earned third place in the nation. Team members include Captain Senior Ryan Jerue, Senior Cassidy Laidlaw, and Juniors Steven Forte, Matthew Lamontagne, and Brian Mc Gartoll. Each team member also competed individually: Matthew Lamontagne 1<sup>st</sup> place Consumer Rights and Responsibilities; Brian Mc Gartoll 2<sup>nd</sup> place Environment; Cassidy Laidlaw 2<sup>nd</sup> place Technology; Ryan Jerue 3<sup>rd</sup> place Health; and Steven Forte 5<sup>th</sup> place Personal Finance.

The Nayatt School was recognized by The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society for raising \$2,086.94 for their Pennies for Patients campaign. The effort was led by the third grade team of teachers – Lori Codega, Michelle Blanchette, Deb Ferreira, and Kim Spaight, and their students. The Nayatt School, a Feinstein Leadership School, also recently participated in the annual National Campaign to Fight Hunger for which students collected a total of 403 food items.

Mr. Messore also congratulated Mr. Connor who will be attending Dartmouth College in the fall.

**BPS Spotlight on Teaching and Learning**

Mr. Messore introduced Barrington Middle School Science Teacher Ms. Rebecca Ferry and Barrington High School Science Teacher Mr. Jeffrey Levesque, who along with students on each of the Science

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Olympiad teams provided information on the local events recently won and on the national competitions in which both teams will compete in the near future. Middle School Science Olympiad student presenters were 8<sup>th</sup> grader Zoe Collins and 7<sup>th</sup> grader Abigail Wilhelm. Other team members present included 7<sup>th</sup> grader Callan Whitney and 6<sup>th</sup> grader Sudiksha Mallick. Presenting for the High School Olympiad team were Junior Cole Reilly, sophomores Alexa Collins and Olivia Bowen, and freshman Eli Shea. Other team members present were senior Baylee DiMarco and sophomore Samyukta Mallick.

**Information and Proposals**

Mr. Messore introduced Barrington Adult and Youth (BAY) Team Program Director Ms. Kathleen Sullivan, BAY Team Program Manager Dr. Kristen Westmoreland, and Barrington High School Student Assistance Counselor Mrs. Joanne Royley. Ms. Sullivan and Dr. Westmoreland provided an update on the BAY Team events held throughout the year, the team's policies, research trends relating to substance abuse, community efforts to help reduce use, and future plans for the BAY Team to sustain its efforts. Mrs. Royley overviewed the student assistance counseling program and resources available to students at the High School. Dr. Shea expressed his concern for seniors going off to college. Mr. Connor agreed that students transitioning from high School to college are vulnerable and requested clarification on the underage drinking policy changes. Dr. Dominguez inquired on how information is shared at the Middle School level. Mrs. Brody questioned the reliability of the survey data collected while conducting research.

Mr. Messore provided an update on the Strategic Plan SmartSheet, the internal working document used to track the progress of the Strategic Plan priorities. For the five Strategic Plan goals, there are 62 established initiatives, 39 of which are in Year 1. Mr. Messore provided a brief overview of each year's highlights and initiatives. The monthly newsletter from the Superintendent continues to feature updates aligned to the Strategic Plan. Mr. Tarro noted that a tentative allocation has been received for the Wireless Classroom Initiative (WCI) bid process through the Rhode Island Department of Education's bond to support the increase of wireless access in classrooms and that approval from the Committee will be requested at the next meeting. Discussion ensued on the availability of digital resources, possible reconfiguration of learning spaces as the district moves toward more work digitally, and the opportunity to schedule a workshop in the summer to evaluate the Strategic Plan at its mid-way point.

**General Public Discussion and Information**

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, commended the Committee and Administration on the work done with the Strategic Plan and for taking the time to pause and take stock.

**New Business from Superintendent and Staff**

Mrs. Brody requested that new business from the Superintendent and Staff be heard at this time.

Mr. George Finn, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, provided information on the concussion protocol and the possible extension of neurological baseline testing to Barrington Middle School. This agenda item is a result of discussions held at Health and Wellness Committee meetings. Mr. Finn stated that the district currently has a certified athletic trainer on staff and overviewed the concussion management law and process of providing literature to parents and student-athletes at the High School. Discussion ensued on the feasibility of providing similar athletic training coverage at the Middle School. Dr. Shea, Chair of the Health and Wellness Committee, thanked Mr. Finn for his leadership on this issue.

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and stated that the Health and Wellness Committee would like to move forward with this extension of baseline testing. Discussion ensued on timeline, fiscal impact, and possible partial implementation. The School Committee requested a recommendation from the Administration for a plan, and information on fiscal and programmatic impact.

**Old Business from Superintendent and Staff**

Mr. Messore provided updates relating to the District Strategic Communication Plan. Interviews for the consulting services for a communication/media specialist are confirmed for next week. A student forum for Barrington High School underclassmen will be scheduled in June for the sole topic of student stress. Student forums at the Middle School are targeted for next year.

**Old Business from School Committee**

Mr. Tarro reported that the next meeting of the Building Committee is scheduled for May 8, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at Barrington Middle School. The construction immediate health and safety project and the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) voluntary compliance bid is due May 8, 2014. A pre-bid meeting will be held on May 2, 2014 to aid in addressing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access with bids due May 16, 2014. Mr. Thomas Lonardo, the architect, is part of the collaborative effort along with the Town of Barrington relating to the bid for file server consolidation. Mrs. Brody stated that the Committee may hold a special meeting on May 13, 2014 where there may be an opportunity to approve the OCR bid.

Mr. Tarro reported that figures for the Medicare reimbursement included in the current operating budget may decrease and could offset costs for out of district tuition. At the last meeting with the Committee on Appropriations (COA), the funding component of implementation of All Day Kindergarten was discussed. Mr. Tarro reported that there are no changes to the proposed FY2014-2015 budget at this time. Mrs. Brody reported that the Rhode Island Association of School Committees Executive Board has voted to support the Massachusetts Association of School Committee's District Governance Program for work with the Barrington School Committee. The Rhode Island Association of School Committees will provide \$1,500 in financial support, approximately 30% of the \$4,900 cost for the program, and the net cost to the district will be \$3,400. Mrs. Brody asked the Committee for their thoughts on the creation of a School Committee budget narrative for the Financial Town Meeting. Members of the Committee present supported the creation of a narrative. Mr. Joel Hellmann, of 13 Richmond Avenue, asked for clarification on the enrollment numbers discussed at the COA meeting.

**New Business from School Committee**

**Dr. Shea moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to table the Policy Revision First Reading – Free and Reduced-Price Meals and/or Free Milk to the next meeting. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Decision Items**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to table the approval of the consent agenda to the next meeting. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

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**Discussion Future Agenda Items**

Dr. Shea requested that a future agenda include an update on Naviance. Mrs. Brody agreed that the information from this year's graduating seniors is important to next year's cohorts in terms of reliable data population. Mr. Messore stated that an update would be available at the May 22, 2014 meeting, and noted that Bristol-Warren Public Schools have requested a multi-school college fair with Barrington next year to introduce Naviance in their district.

Mr. Messore stated the Achievement Data Report will be placed on the June 5, 2014 agenda as well as an update on the Bullying Policy. An update from the Advisory Committee will be given at the June 19, 2014 meeting.

Mrs. Brody requested that a future agenda include discussion on the discipline policy and an update on the plan regarding suspensions. Mrs. Brody also requested an update on the status of the request for an opinion from legal counsel on the jurisdiction/decision making responsibility (municipal or schools) for proposals such as the proposed cell tower and athletic training wall.

**General Discussion to Guide Future Recommendations**

Mrs. Brody noted upcoming meetings: The Rhode Island Association of School Committees Annual Conference on May 3; School Committee Joint Meeting with the Committee on Appropriations on May 7; Governance Workshop on May 10; Executive Session on May 13; and the Town Budget Hearing on May 14. Mrs. Brody added that an additional meeting may be scheduled before the May 13 Executive Session to discuss legal representation for the School Committee.

**General Public Discussion and Information**

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, commended the district for its work on the possible extension of neurological baseline testing at Barrington Middle School and for discussing the option of partial implementation, adding that it could open doors to partnerships with organizations like the Bristol Youth Soccer Association. Dr. Douglas stressed that the legislation in Rhode Island currently lags behind that of Massachusetts in the standard of care.

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:15 p.m. and go into Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(3) for discussion relative to school buildings security issues. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:31 p.m. and to seal the minutes and report that no votes were taken. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:32 p.m. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**